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AQD Matters

Internal newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department

Volume 2, Number 8, 31 August 2005

Aquaculture Week, Year 10

Parang kailan lang, sampung taon na. The first Aquaculture Week was held in July 1996 at the then AQD Museum in the Research Building. AQD was Open House for a week, and nature films were shown to pupils from the four elementary schools in AQD's immediate neighborhood. For the very first Bring, Show, and Tell, the pupils brought a green turtle, a clownfish with its anemone, some catfish, and various colored plankton. It was fun!

Aquaculture Week became a hit among pupils and teachers. More contests were held (painting, essay-writing, story-telling, quizzes, etc.). High schools were invited. Aquaculture Week became a regular part of AQD's anniversary celebration. This year is FishWorld's Year 5, and Aquaculture Week Year 10 was held from 25 to 29 July. Some 90 pupils and 64 teachers from 16 elementary schools joined four contests, whereas 75 students and 54 teachers from 17 high schools joined five contests. The winners are listed on page 2, some photos are on page 3, and some paintings on page 4.



Shyne Marie Tanghal, 15 yrs old, Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus
First Prize Winner

Aquaculture is important to the lives of Filipinos



Speaker Jose De Venecia visits FishWorld,
15 July 2005

AQD Chief Dr. Rolando R. Platon graced the Closing Ceremony, delivered a message of encouragement, and awarded the Certificates of Merit to the winners and their coaches, as well as SEAFDEC FishWorld trophies to the best performing schools, Leganes Central Elementary School and Ramon Avanceña National High School. The winners also got cash prizes, funded from the FishWorld entrance fees. It was smiles all around.



Best Performing Schools during Aquaculture Week 2005: Leganes Central Elementary School (left) and Ramon Avanceña National High School (right)

Aquaculture Week 2005

Painting Contest: “Mangroves are important to me and my community”

16 contestants from 16 elementary schools

Prize	Name	Age	Gr	School
1 st	Tegydy Lampasa Coach: Hobert Catedrilla	12	6	Leganes Central ES
2 nd	Hannah Jane F. Yap Coach: Carlos P. Bataga	11	5	Univ San Agustin
3 rd	Reian Faith Karmele Sollesta Coach: Prof. Arturo Souribio	11	6	West Visayas State U Integrated Lab School
4 th	Christine Joy Ramos Coach: Rommel Mediavilla	12	6	Oton Central ES
5 th	Ma. Claudine Teope Coach: Cyrell Navarro	11	6	Tigbauan Central ES
6 th	Cathrina Bagarinao Coach: Juvy P. Julleza	11	6	Kinaadman ES

Nutrition and Aquaculture Quiz

29 contestants from 15 elementary schools

Prize	Name	Age	Gr	School
1 st	Anjel Mae Estrella Coach: Tessie C. Po	11	6	Kinaadman ES
2 nd	Norman Langurayan Coach: Daisy Golingay	12	6	Leganes Central ES
3 rd	Leobert Julienne de la Peña Coach: Tessie C. Po	11	6	Kinaadman ES

Collect, Show, and Tell: “Our school’s shell collection”

22 contestants from 11 elementary schools

Prize	Name	Age	Gr	School
1 st	Junine Wednesday Java Riza Ensoya Coaches: Emily Rojo Sherwin de la Cruz	12	6	Oton Central ES
2 nd	Rizcel Ivana E. Ortiz Herna May L. Proceso Coach: Vicente G. Gellego	11	5	University of Iloilo Lab School
3 rd	Anjel Mae Estrella Joan Marie Diestro Coach: Ma. Cecilia Cordova	11	6	Kinaadman ES

Aquarium Quiz

23 contestants from 12 elementary schools

Prize	Name	Age	Gr	School
1 st	Mary Jeanette Tagabi Coach: Guillermo D. Tanato	12	6	Tubungan Central ES
1 st	Liza Marie Sira Coach: Cynthia S. Julayba	11	6	Sta Barbara Central ES

Best Performing Elementary School

Leganes Central Elementary School
Principal: Dr. Dominador L. Lisao

Best Performing High School

Ramon Avanceña National High School
Principal: Cynthia E. Caberoy

Painting Contest: “Aquaculture is important to the lives of Filipinos”

15 contestants from 15 high schools

Prize	Name	Age	Yr	School
1 st	Shyne Marie Tanghal Coach: Ofelia S. Lingaya	15	4	Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus
2 nd	Elouiza Athena Tentativa Coach: Ma. Elena Hojilla	16	4	West Visayas State U Integrated Lab School
3 rd	Felizardo Guerrero Jr. Coach: Felizardo Guerrero	15	4	Guimbal National HS

Proposals for a School Aquaculture Project: “Fish farming for food and income”

7 teams of 2 from 6 high schools

Prize	Name	Age	Yr	School
1 st	Joseph Erwin Dumagpi Alvin Jan Acac Coach: Lorena P. Samentar	15	4	Univ Philippines High School in Iloilo
2 nd	Ability Ann G. Tacaisan Michelle F. Lorbes Coach: Wilfredo Torrecampo	15	3	Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus
3 rd	Armando Araneta Jr. Susie Grajales Coach: Bonifacio Garvilles	16	4	Guimbal National HS

Teaching Aquaculture in High School: “Fundamentals of aquaculture”

3 teachers from 3 high schools

Prize	Name of Teachers	School
1 st	Angela Balista	Colegio de San Jose
2 nd	Bonifacio Garvilles	Guimbal National HS
3 rd	Edna Casalmir	Ramon Avanceña National HS

Ecology and Aquaculture Quiz

26 contestants from 13 high schools

Prize	Name	Age	Yr	School
1 st	April Rose M. Drilon Coach: Marieta Edquila	16	4	Colegio del Sagrado Sagrado de Jesus
2 nd	Melchor Altillero Jr. Coach: Oliver Fuentespina	15	4	Philippine Science HS - WV
3 rd	Cassey Abangan Coach: Josephine Andrino	14	3	Ramon Avanceña National HS

Seafood Dish Contest: “Seafood from aquafarms: masarap na, healthy pa”

21 contestants from 11 high schools

Prize	Name	Age	Yr	School
Pinaka Orig!	Mae Joy G. Palomo Coach: Emellie G. Palomo	15	4	West Visayas State U Integrated Lab School
2 nd	Catherine Longanilla Coach: Ma. Flora Castro	15	4	West Visayas State U Integrated Lab School
3 rd	Barbara Mae D. Sarabia Jugilyn J. Cachila Coaches: Rosalinda White Ofelia S. Lingaya	15	4	Colegio del Sagrado Sagrado de Jesus

Congratulations!!

Aquaculture Week 2005



Nutrition and Aquaculture Quiz



Ecology and Aquaculture Quiz



Painting: "Mangroves are important to me and my community"



Preparing for the presentation of Proposals for School Aquaculture Projects



Bring, Show, and Tell: "Our school's shell collection"



Angela Balista, Colegio de San Jose, teaches about mangroves and aquaculture



Kinaadman pupils play teachers

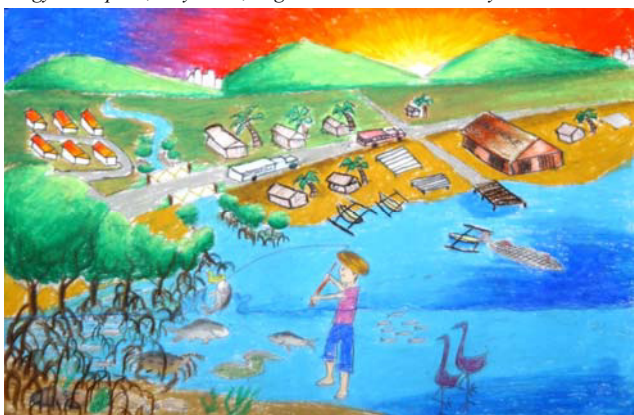


WVSU students win top prizes for their seafood dishes

Aquaculture Week 2005



Tegyd Lampasa, 12 yrs old, Leganes Central Elementary School



Reian Faith Karmele Sollesta, 11 yrs old, WVSU Integrated Lab School



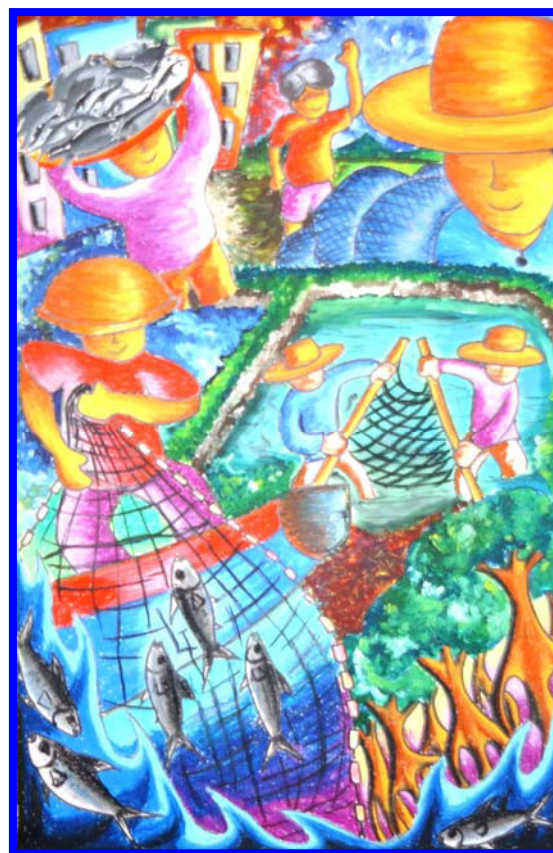
Christine Joy Ramos, 12 years old, Oton Central Elementary School



Cathrina Bagarinao, 11 yrs old, Kinaadman Elementary School



Elouiza Tentativa, 16 yrs old, West Visayas State University



Felizardo Guerrero Jr., 15 yrs old, Guimbal Natl High School

NFRDI conducts biotech course at AQD

The National Fisheries Research and Development Institute conducted the training course on Biotechnology Techniques and Instrumentation at SEAFDEC/AQD Tigbauan from 8 to 14 August for 15 trainees — 10 from NFRDI, two from UP-Visayas, and three from AQD (plus 4 observers).

Dr. Antonio Laurena from UP Los Baños lectured on polymerase chain reaction and related techniques, chromatography, bioinformatics, and DNA sequencing. He also conducted several laboratory sessions. Dr. Augusto Serrano and Dr. Christopher Caipang from UP-Visayas talked about molecular techniques in protein digestibility tests, and about recombinant proteins as fish vaccines. Dr. Ronelie Salvador from the University of Eastern Philippines lectured on biotech approaches in algal culture. AQD's Dr. Ma. Rowena Eguia taught about molecular genetic markers, and Dr. Leobert de la Peña about use of PCR in disease diagnosis. The practical sessions were held at the Laboratory for Advanced Aquaculture Technologies, with LD de la Peña, G Anuevo, F Pedroso, and T Billena as instructors.

MTC Mallare



Ali Al Shaikhi, Yahya Al Otaiby, and Sultan Al Kaabe try their hand at bacterial culture

Three Saudis learn more about shrimp farming

Three technicians from the National Prawn Company (NPC) in Al Lith, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came to AQD for a special training course on Environment-Friendly Shrimp Farming from 19 July to 16 August 2005. The NPC is the largest shrimp producing company in the Middle East. Its rapid expansion has increased the need for more local Saudis to be actively involved in the NPC work force. The NPC recognized AQD's capability to fill the gap in the training of technicians, focusing on the basic science of aquaculture. The training included lectures and practicals on shrimp biology, nutrition, health management, the global status of the shrimp industry, pond design, culture and management. The trainees also went on field trips to Igang Marine Station, private shrimp farms in Capiz and Negros Occidental, and the Mambukal springs.

The Saudis expressed appreciation for the lectures and laboratory sessions they had, but explained that the NPC farm is so advanced in terms of facilities, technologies, inputs, and harvests that they found it hard to relate to the pilot-scale farm at AQD Dumangas. AQD Chief RR Platon explained that AQD's environment-friendly shrimp farming technologies are scaled down to suit the financial and institutional capabilities of developing countries in southeast Asia.

RF Bombeo

Aray!! A viper bites Romer Ticar in Myanmar

Oh, the perils of technology verification on site. Romer Ticar was harvesting tiger shrimps from a pond in Kyauktan, Myanmar, at 2:30 am on 4 August when he was bitten by a snake. He was immediately taken to the Yangon General Hospital by his counterpart from the Department of Fisheries Myanmar. After a long and detailed analysis, it was confirmed that the snake was a viper. The Minister of Health himself came to see Romer and directed the doctors to give him utmost care. Romer has recovered, by the grace of God.

The AQD technology demonstration project in Kyauktan harvested 8.2 metric tons of shrimp with average size 30 grams. DOF was very pleased, and thankful to Romer.



Dr. Antonio Laurena puts the trainees through the paces at the Biotech Lab



Vigan fish farmers train in freshwater aquaculture

It all started when Vigan City Mayor Ferdinand Medina and 40 of his constituents visited Binangonan Freshwater Station last May. They have already started several tilapia hatcheries in different barangays under a project funded by the Spanish aid agency *Cooperacion Española* and implemented by a Spanish non-government organization, *Accion Contra el Hambre*. Mayor Medina and his group wanted to find other commodities suited for freshwater aquaculture in Vigan. From this visit, the Freshwater Aquaculture Training for Vigan Fish Farmers was planned and scheduled for 27-28 July 2005.

On 26 July, RD Head WG Yap and BFS researchers MRR Eguia, RV Eguia (also of ABCDEF, Inc.), MA Laron, AD Evangelista, and MLC Aralar made the 10-hour bus trip to Vigan. They arrived at 6 pm and were escorted by police officers (in motorbikes with sirens and flashing lights) to the city-owned La Playa de Oro Resort where they were billeted.

The training course was held at the Vigan Culture and Trade Center and was attended by 33 fish farmers. The AQD trainers gave the following lectures:

- What is SEAFDEC/AQD?
- Importance of Small-Scale Aquaculture in the Philippines
- *Mga Alituntunin sa Pag-aalaga ng Tilapia*
- *Pagpapalaki ng Karpa*
- *Pagpapalaki ng Ulang*
- *Pagpapaanak at Pag-aalaga ng Hito*

A tilapia clinic was conducted by RV Eguia, WG Yap, and MA Laron. The farmers asked practical questions and discussed the problems they have encountered in the operation of their tilapia hatcheries and farms.

The farmers also showed much interest in the other species presented to them for possible farming. During the open forum, the farmers asked for a similar training course on marine commodities. WG Yap invited Mayor Medina to visit the Tigbauan Main Station to see for himself the hatcheries for abalone, mud crab, and marine fishes.

Mayor Medina is a model local government executive. He inspired the farmers by his presence during the opening and closing ceremonies. He provided each of the farmer trainees copies of the AQD extension manuals on tilapia and bighead carp. He also made sure each trainee got a framed group photo. All to build a sense of empowerment and belonging.

MLC Aralar

Between the lectures and the tilapia clinic, the AQD trainers were escorted around Vigan by Edgar de la Cruz of the Mayor's Office. Formerly Villa Fernandina de Vigan (1572), later Ciudad Fernandina de Vigan (1758), the now World Heritage City has many attractions, many of them vintage Spanish period. Enjoy the photos next page, courtesy of WG Yap (top six) and MLC Aralar (bottom four).



WG Yap talks about small-scale aquaculture in the Philippines



Fish farmers consult with RV Eguia on ways to improve tilapia production



Vigan Mayor Ferdinand Medina encourages the fish farmers



Mayor Medina also invited SEAFDEC AQD to hold some future regional workshop in Vigan and offered the use of the Vigan Culture and Trade Center as venue for free.

Participants of the Freshwater Aquaculture Training for Vigan Fish Farmers pose with Mayor Ferdinand Medina and the SEAFDEC/AQD trainers



Calesa plying the charming cobbled street of Vigan



Through kapis windows



The famous Vigan burnay



Ang mga bahay na bato sa gabi



One of several antique shops



Molding the Vigan burnay



At the ancestral home of National Hero Padre Jose Burgos



With National Folk Artist Fidel Antiporda Go at his burnay factory



City-owned La Playa de Oro Resort



Vigan City Hall



*Freshly harvested lake-farmed ulang or *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* for the anniversary lunch*

BFS celebrates 29th anniversary

The busy schedule notwithstanding, BFS managed to celebrate its anniversary twice: on 22 July and 1 August — before and after the true date, July 27, during which nearly the entire staff had to be in Vigan to conduct a training course.

The pre-anniversary salvo was hosted by erstwhile BFS Senior Scientist Dr. Corazon B. Santiago and former AQD Chief Dr. Alfredo Santiago at their Antipolo residence. Guests included RD Head Mr. Wilfredo G. Yap, former BFS Station Head Alejandro Santiago, and BFAR Tanay Head Dr. Adelaida Palma. Other BFS ‘retirees’ also joined the celebration.

The post-anniversary celebration was held at BFS Tapao, attended by AQD Chief Dr. Rolando R. Platon and former BFAR Director and ABCDEF, Inc. Vice President Mr. Felix Gonzales. The Chief delivered what he called his SODA (State of the Department Address) during the Anniversary Program. He also congratulated BFS for surviving the difficult transition period after the AQD streamlining. He noted that BFS has been very busy in the past year refocusing its activities and reaching out to students, fish farmers, fishery teachers, and local governments to promote freshwater aquaculture.

Dr. Platon also recognized the research achievements of BFS over the past 29 years. He and Director Gonzales awarded AQD’s Certificate of Recognition to the winners of the 2005 Elvira O. Tan Memorial Award for Best Paper in Aquaculture. Ms. Adelaida L. Arago received the Certificate in behalf of Dr. Zubaida U. Basiao.

MLC Aralar

Elvira O. Tan Memorial Award 2005 Best Paper in Aquaculture

ZU Basiao, RW Doyle, AL Arago

**“A farmer-oriented Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* L.
breed improvement in the Philippines”
Aquaculture Research 36: 113-119 (2005)**

BFS conducts tilapia training for IRAP

The BFS Anniversary was also the start of the 10-day training course on Tilapia Hatchery and Growout Operations. The participants of the training course were Ms. Mi Mi Khaing from Myanmar, Mr. Seng Heng from Cambodia, and Ms. Vonsamay Dalasaen from Lao PDR. The training course was funded under the Integrated Rural Aquaculture Program and ended 10 August. Representatives from the local governments of Angono and Binangonan also participated in the training; they were sponsored by the ABCDEF, Inc. In addition to the lectures and practicals, the trainees visited the ABCDEFI farm in Jalajala, the tilapia farms in Taal Lake, and the Freshwater Aquaculture Center at the Central Luzon State University in Munoz, Nueva Ecija.

MLC Aralar



Ms. Mi Mi Khaing of Myanmar and Mr. Seng Heng of Cambodia pose with Dr. RR Platon, Mr. Felix Gonzales, and BFS personnel



AQD Chief RR Platon delivers his SODA



BFS pre-anniversary get-together hosted by Dr. Corazon Santiago and former AQD Chief Dr. Alfredo Santiago at their Antipolo residence